



Press Release

National
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In Cooperation with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture

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Rice Rules in Louisiana This Year

“The 2011 crop year has faced a wide variety of weather related challenges this year. As harvest season comes to an end, most farmers are seeing average yields for most field crops, except for rice. Rice is the leading crop this year in Louisiana, and is on target to set a new record yield. Yield per acre is forecast at 6,400 pounds, 100 pounds above the record of 6,300 pounds set in 2009,” said Nathan Crisp, Director of the Louisiana Field Office of the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. “Louisiana is expecting to see the second highest cotton yield on record, at 893 pounds, 124 pounds below the state record of 1,017 pounds set in 2007. Good weather at harvest, shortened the harvest season for most crops, and producers are trying to complete harvests soon in expectation of cooler weather.” Crisp added.

Louisiana **rice** production is forecast at 26.9 million cwt, unchanged from the previous month but down 18 percent from 2010. Rice acreage for harvest is forecast at 420,000 acres, down 115,000 acres from 2010. Yield per acre is forecast at 6,400 pounds, unchanged from the previous month but up 300 pounds from last year. If realized, this will be the highest yield on record. U.S. **rice** production is forecast at 187 million cwt, down two percent from September and 23 percent below last year.

Louisiana’s **cotton** production is expected to total 530,000 bales, down four percent from the September estimate but up 21 percent from last year. Acreage of cotton expected for harvest is forecast at 285,000 acres, up 36,000 acres from a year ago. The expected yield per acre, at 893 pounds, is down 33 pounds from the September forecast but up 51 pounds from 2010. U.S. **upland cotton** production is forecast at 15.9 million bales, up slightly from last month but down 10 percent from 2010.

Soybean production is expected to total 35.3 million bushels in Louisiana, up one percent from the September estimate but down 16 percent from 2010. Soybean acreage for harvest was revised to 980,000 acres, down 20,000 acres from the June 1 estimate. Yield is forecast at 36 bushels per acre, up one bushel from the previous month but down five bushels from last year. U.S. **soybean** production is forecast at 3.1 billion bushels, down one percent from September and down eight percent from last year.

Louisiana’s **corn** production is forecast at 75.6 million bushels, up six percent from the previous month’s estimate and up eight percent from last year. Acreage expected for harvest was revised to 560,000 acres, up 10,000 acres from the June 1 estimate. Yield per acre, at 135 bushels, is up five bushels from last month but down five bushels from last year’s yield. U.S. **corn** production is forecast at 12.4 billion bushels, down one percent from last month and down slightly from 2010.

Sorghum production is estimated at 10.1 million bushels in the state, down 19 percent from the September estimate but up 37 percent from 2010. Acreage expected for harvest was revised to 125,000 acres, down 30,000 acres from the June 1 estimate. Yield is forecast at 81 bushels per acre, unchanged from last month but down 14 bushels from a year ago. U.S. **sorghum** production is forecast at 244 million bushels, down slightly from last month and down 29 percent from last year.

The Louisiana **sugarcane** crop is estimated at 11.8 million net tons, unchanged from the previous month but up one percent from last year. Harvested acreage for sugar and seed is forecast at 420,000 acres, unchanged from last year. Yield is forecast at 28 net tons per acre, unchanged from the September estimate but up 0.2 net ton from last year. U.S. **sugarcane** production for sugar and seed is forecast at 28.6 million net tons, unchanged from the September but five percent above last year.

Louisiana production of **all hay** is estimated at 1.2 million tons, down three percent from the August estimate and down eight percent from a year ago. Acreage for harvest is forecast at 400,000 acres, down 50,000 acres from 2010. Yield, at 2.9 tons per acre, is expected to be up 0.1 ton from last year. U.S. **all hay** production is forecast at 131.7 million tons, down 10 percent from 2010.

Louisiana’s **pecan** production is forecast at 9 million pounds, compared to 20 million pounds last year. U.S. **all pecan** production is forecast at 252 million pounds, down 14 percent from 2010.